

“Stand for Marriage: Responding to the Ruling”
Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:24; Matt. 19:4-6
June 2015

On Friday, the US Supreme Court ruled in a 5 to 4 decision that same-sex “marriage” is a constitutional right on the basis of the majority’s interpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment. Not only did they attempt to assume the role of God Almighty who has already declared that marriage is only between one man and one woman, but five black-robed tyrants have overturned the votes of 50 million Americans in 30 states, demanding that we turn our backs on thousands of years of human history, reams of social science data, and most importantly, the clear teachings of Holy Scripture.

For years, LGBT activists have goaded the Courts to do their bidding in forcing their will on America. Now exactly two years after the court’s majority took an iron gavel and smashed the federal marriage law, these same five black-robed lawyers came back to finish the job, inventing a sweeping “right” to same-sex “marriage” that no Founding Father intended. In his withering dissent to his five colleagues on the Court, Justice Antonin Scalia declared: “Today’s decree says that my Ruler, and the Ruler of 320 million Americans coast-to-coast, is a majority of the nine lawyers on the Supreme Court.” He continues that the Court: “claimed power to create ‘liberties’ that the Constitution and its Amendments neglect to mention. This practice of constitutional revision by an unelected committee of nine, always accompanied (as it is today) by extravagant praise of liberty, robs the People of the most important liberty they asserted in the Declaration of Independence and won in the Revolution of 1776: the freedom to govern themselves.”

Well five black robed tyrants may have trampled the votes and opinions of multiplied millions of Americans, but the Supreme Court does not have the moral authority to redefine marriage. Just as President Abraham Lincoln refused to accept the Supreme Court’s Dred Scott decision of 1857, declaring that a black slave was not a human being with full rights, and just as many Americans refused to accept the Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision of 1973, legalizing the killing of the unborn, as legitimate, we don’t have to accept this ruling on marriage in 2015.

How should Bible-believing Christians respond? Well the Court may have ruled on marriage. But God has already overruled. He has already decided. No room for discussion and no space for debate. His word forever establishes the divine pattern for marriage. And His opinion is binding and it is final, Amen? As Gov. Mike Huckabee declared. “The Supreme Court can no more repeal the laws of nature and nature’s God on marriage than it can the law of gravity.”¹ What are the laws of nature and of nature’s God? Well for that we need to go back to the beginning, back to the book of Genesis.

I. THE DIVINE PATTERN

For example, Genesis 1:27: “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” We know that God is neither male nor female. Yet we are made “in his image.” In spite of the fact that we are, as individuals, made in the image of God, the full image is expressed when the two halves of humanity complement each other and become one. So a man, by himself, is not fully representative of all the descriptors of

the image of God. At the same time, a woman, by herself, cannot do justice to the full spectrum of the image of God. However, when the two complimentary halves of humanity unite in marriage - physically, emotionally, and spiritually – the image of God is revealed. Male and female are made anatomically, emotionally and spiritually for oneness. Husband and wife, joined together, represent the full spectrum of the image of God. Aren't you glad God created Adam and Eve, and not just Adam and Steve? Thank God for the difference between men and women.

In Genesis 2:24, God further declares: “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.” When you come to the teaching of Jesus in the NT, you find that Jesus endorsed the divine pattern. Quoting Genesis, Jesus asked Pharisees in Matt. 19:4-6: “Have you not read that at the beginning, the Creator made them male and female, and said: ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh?’ So they are no longer two but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let no man separate.”

In Ephesians 5, Paul takes us further and speaks of marriage between a man and a woman as a symbol of the mystical union between Christ and his church, which is fulfilled after the Second Coming of Christ at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in Revelation 19. So there is something about man/woman marriage that reflects the fullness of the image of God and the unique love-relationship between Christ and His Church. In both OT and NT, one man and one woman in a marriage covenant relationship for life is the divine pattern. But marriage is more than simply a physical illustration of spiritual truths. It is intensely practical. When a marriage follows God's design, it is good for everyone — men, women, children, the community, the country, and the world. Let's look at some of the statistics:

Benefits for the Individual:

- Happiness: 50% more likely to be happy in a general sense.
- Performance: More than a third more likely to take pride in their work (34%).
- Health: Nearly a third more likely to rate their health excellent or very good (30%).
(From the *Case for Marriage*)

Benefits for the Couple:

- Marital Satisfaction: 25% happier in their relationship.
- Divorce or Separation: 50% less likely.
- Adultery: More than 4 times less likely (7.7% vs. 33.8%).
- Earned Income: As much as 5 times more annually (\$54K vs. \$9.4K).

Benefits for their Children:

- Average High School GPA (English and Math): Almost half a grade point higher (2.94 vs. 2.48).
- Expulsion or Suspension from School: Nearly 3 times less likely.
- Repeating a Grade: Nearly 6 times less likely (6% vs. 34%).

- Hard Drug Use: Nearly 2.5 less likely (8.5% vs. 20.1%).
- Drunkenness: Nearly 2 times less likely (22.4% vs. 41.2%).
- Homosexual Activity: 3 times less likely (2.5% vs. 7.5%).
- Running Away from Home: Over 2.5 times less likely.
- Average Number of Sex Partners (Females): Over 3 times less (0.47 vs. 1.55).²

Both genders are needed for a healthy home. As Dr. James Dobson notes, "More than ten thousand studies have concluded that kids do best when they are raised by mothers and fathers."³ God's way works! Think about it. Every civilization in history is built upon the institution of marriage. It is the foundation. The happiness of couples, the welfare of children, the propagation of the faith, the wellbeing of society, and the orderliness of civilization are all dependent upon the stability of marriage according to the divine pattern. When this God-given pattern is undermined, the whole superstructure of society becomes unstable. Any deviation from the divine pattern invites disaster. And that is exactly what this Supreme Court has done: Invite disaster.

II. THE DECEPTIVE PERVERSION

And that leads me to the second point: There is a deceptive perversion of the divine pattern. Hear me: Any and all sexual sin outside of the marriage covenant relationship is a deceptive perversion of the divine pattern, but for the purposes of this message I want to focus on one sin in particular: homosexual behavior. The Word of God, which does not err, is abundantly clear. Leviticus 18:22 says: "You are not to sleep with a man as with a woman; it is detestable." Leviticus 20:13a says: "If a man sleeps with a man as with a woman, they have both committed an abomination..." Homosexual behavior is an abomination to God. This is the strongest biblical word for the denunciation of sin, the proof of which is in the account of Sodom and Gomorrah, which were destroyed in a hail of fire and brimstone (Gen. 19).

Again, why is homosexual behavior a sin? Because it is open rebellion against the divine pattern, the created order of God, who made us in His image as male and female. Some say: "Well, that's Old Testament, Jesus never said anything about homosexuality." I would disagree. Jesus said in Matthew 5:17-18: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished."

Some say: "Well Christians don't restrict their diets like they did in the OT Law, why should we pay attention to restrictions against homosexuality?" Well it true that we don't keep kosher. Why? Because Christ's death on the cross rendered obsolete the dietary, ceremonial, and sacrificial laws (see Hebrews 8:13), but the principles of the *moral* law remain in force. The moral law calls homosexuality an abomination. Jesus said: "I didn't come to change that."

In fact, Jesus basically condemned homosexuality by affirming the divine pattern for marriage. In Matthew 19:4-6 and Mark 10:6-9, quoting from Genesis 1 and 2, Jesus said that marriage is between one man and one woman. So if Jesus said marriage is between one man and one woman, it follows logically that marriage cannot be between two men or two women. In

affirming God's pattern for marriage, Jesus rejected the deceptive perversion of homosexual behavior. When you get into the letters of Paul (Romans 1:18, 26-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:10), Peter (2 Peter 2:6ff), and Jude (v. 7), there is even more confirmation. Homosexual behavior is a deceptive perversion, and it is a sign of a culture that has rejected God and His ways.

But I want to be quick to say that neither is it an unforgivable sin. Just like every other sin, if a person who struggles with this sinful behavior will repent, that is confesses and turns from this behavior, that person can be forgiven. That is what the cross is all about. That is why Jesus came to die. That is the heart of God. He loves everybody, including those who are struggling with this sin. He loves you. Let Him forgive you, heal you and set you free! Just as Jesus told the woman caught in adultery: "Neither do I condemn you, but go and sin no more" (John 8:11), He says the same to the person caught up in LGBT behavior. At the same time, there is an agenda that is at work, subverting God's plan. There is a battle going on between the divine pattern and this deceptive perversion.

III. THE DEFINITIVE PROBLEM

Third, there is a definitive problem. Those who identify as gay and lesbian claim: "We were born this way; it is in our genes; God made us gay or lesbian." They cite old "gay gene" studies predominantly conducted by researchers who are pro-homosexual; studies that have been repudiated by credible research.⁴ Yet these same biased and discredited studies have been widely publicized by the liberal media as true and factual. They essentially practice a proven method of propaganda, which is basically this: Tell a lie long enough and loud enough and eventually most people will believe it.⁵

God did not make anyone homosexual. The Bible declares that the definitive problem is ours: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way..." (Isaiah 53:6). Every one of us has a sin nature that twists and perverts God-given desires not only toward homosexuality, but toward all sorts of sin, including sexual sins such as promiscuity, adultery, pedophilia, etc. Our sinful nature is the root of all manner of evil, but with God's help, we can choose not to give into those sinful desires and attractions.

Dr. James Dobson says: "I am certain that homosexuality does not result from irresistible genetic influences, as some would have us believe."⁶ Scientifically speaking, there is no gay gene. How else can you explain the scores of people who have decided to leave the LGBT lifestyle and be heterosexual? I mean other than by the grace of God? Listen, I do not believe that God would not place in your genetic code something that would damn your immortal soul. Again, it is our sin nature and its perverted and twisted desires that people give into, just as the Bible says in Rom. 1:24-27. That's the definitive problem.

IV. THE DESTRUCTIVE PROGRAM

Fourth, there is a destructive program. While those who self-identify as LGBT only represent about 3% of the total population, many have become very vocal, well organized, well funded,

and highly motivated.⁷ They have used the courts, the media, the political system, the entertainment world, and even the schools to "mainstream" their lifestyle choices, and they have been extremely successful in advancing their agenda.

What are the goals of the LGBT agenda? They include universal acceptance of the LGBT lifestyle (check), gaining special privileges and rights in the laws (check), securing the legal benefits of marriage and parenting for any two people of the same gender (check), "sensitivity training" of our children through public education (in process), and silencing critics in the church and Christian media (in process). Now that the Court has imposed same-sex "marriage" on all 50 states, LGBT behavior is now a civil right, and it will result in a sexual tyranny that will trump our religious liberty.

A. Businesses: It is already happening. Just ask Elaine Hugenin, a Christian, who owns Elaine's Photography. She was asked by a lesbian couple to photograph their commitment ceremony. She declined based on her biblical beliefs and was fined \$6,500. The NM Supreme Court ruled that Elaine must provide the service to same sex "couples" and sacrifice her biblical beliefs and the price of doing business. That is tyranny!

Aaron and Melissa Klein owned Sweet Cakes bakery in Gresham Oregon. They too were approached by a woman who wanted a wedding cake made for her marriage to another woman. Aaron politely declined based on their beliefs, even offering to recommend some other bakeries who would do it. But they were subjected to protests and such hateful by the LGBT community that they were forced to close and the state of Oregon handed down \$135,000 in fines. That is tyranny!

Barronnelle Stutzmann, owner of Arlene's Flowers and a Southern Baptist, serves "gay" customers. Rob Ingersoll, whom she had been serving for years, approached her about doing flowers for his upcoming wedding to another man. She refused based on her love for Jesus and obedience to his word. He is seeking damages that could take her business and his home, upwards of \$300K. Despite that, she said: "If Rob [Robert Ingersoll] walked in the store today, I would hug him and catch up on his life. The same faith that tells me that I can't be a part of Rob's wedding is the same faith that tells me to love him as Christ does."⁸ In the coming conflict, never forget what she said. That is the example we should follow. Fight the agenda but love the sinner.

Jack Phillips, owner Masterpiece Cakes in Lakewood, Colorado has been ordered by the state to make wedding cakes for gay couples and guarantee that its staff undergo sensitivity training and the next two years, or he could face fines and up to a year in jail for each time he refused to participate in a same-sex ceremony. Phillips will also be required to submit quarterly reports to the commission to confirm that he is complying with their edict.⁹ That is tyranny!

Most recently, Memories Pizza, a Walkerton, Indiana restaurant came under attack when its Christian owners were asked a hypothetical question about catering a same-sex "wedding" ceremony. When Kevin and his daughter Crystal O'Connor answered truthfully that they wouldn't, the tiny town was overrun by protestors. The threats from the "tolerant" Left were so vicious -- everything from burning down the pizza parlor to killing its owners -- that the

O'Connors closed the store and went into hiding. Thankfully the Christian community stepped up, raised \$800K for them, and they just reopened and even offered some of the money to Ms. Stuzmann.¹⁰ But you see what we are up against in America. It is tyranny.

Atlanta Mayor Kaseem Reed fired decorated Fire Chief Kelvin Cochran because of a self-published book he wrote that contained his beliefs about human sexuality based on the Bible. Despite the fact that Cochran had obtained his superiors' approval to publish the book, and despite the fact that he only gave the book to friends, he was suspended in late 2014, and then the Mayor fired him in January. Cochran said: "I am heartbroken that I will no longer be able to serve the city and the people I love as fire chief, for no reason other than my Christian faith." That is Tyranny.

B. Education: Several years ago, the conservative news magazine *National Review* laid out a litany of examples of homosexual indoctrination in Massachusetts public schools, a state where same-sex "marriage" is legal. In one elementary school, a transsexual was invited into a 1st grade class to give details of his operation.¹¹ In another elementary school, children were assigned to play gays in a school skit. Two girls were to hold hands and pretend to be lesbians. One boy's line was: "It's natural to be attracted to the same sex."¹² One 9th grade High School health textbook teaches: "Testing your ability to function sexually and give pleasure to another person may be less threatening in the early teens with people of your own sex...You may come to the conclusion that growing up means rejecting the values of your parents."¹³ A Lexington, Massachusetts school "treated" their second graders to a book entitled *King and King*, which is a colorful 29-page children's book in which a prince searches for a wife, only in the end to choose another prince. The story ends with the two princes "marrying" and living "happily ever after." On the last page, the princes -- now kings -- even share a kiss.¹⁴ This was read to 7 year olds!

David and Tonya Parker's five year old son was subjected to this kind of nonsense at his elementary school in Lexington, MA, the very birthplace of the War for Independence. He brought home some pro-homosexual literature in his book bag. When David visited the Principal, he was told that same-sex "marriage" is the law, so there was no need for advance notice or for parental consent. When David objected, wanting to have his son opt out of the immoral indoctrination and refusing to leave until he got an agreement, the police were called, arrested David, and threw him in jail.¹⁵ That is tyranny!

The strategy behind the Destructive Program of the homosexual activists and their allies is obvious. Writing in the leading homosexual magazine, *The Advocate*, lesbian author Patricia Nell Warren, said this: "It is the first fact of civilization; whoever captures the kids owns the future."¹⁶ She is absolutely right and that agenda will move forward at lightening speed.

C. Churches: The last bastion of freedom is the church, but it will not be spared. We have seen LGBT activists invade churches, disrupt services, take over pulpits, unfurl banners, toss out condoms and shout their slogans. As in Genesis 19, they are banging on the door of the church! We have already seen it in Houston, Texas, where the openly lesbian Mayor subpoenaed the sermons of five pastors who dared challenge the city's Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity ordinance. That is tyranny!

The New York Times published an editorial on Good Friday and ran in the Print Edition for Easter Sunday that made the LGBT activist demands to the church. Mitchell Gold, who heads an advocacy group, Faith in America, which aims to mitigate the damage done to LGBT people by what it calls “religion-based bigotry,” makes this demand: Church leaders must be made “to take homosexuality off the sin list.”¹⁷ My response: I will surrender to those demands when hell freezes over then skate on the ice!

Seriously, powerful forces and currents in our culture are battering believers in Biblical marriage. These forces insist that the Church’s teachings are out of date, insensitive, unloving, even bigoted and hateful. They command us to conform our thinking to their sexual orthodoxy – or else. They threaten us with consequences if we refuse to call what is good evil, and what is evil good. And now that LGBT activists have won legal approval, they will deny our full rights because their so-called “civil rights” and a Christian’s freedom of conscience and speech opposing LGBT behavior are mutually exclusive. Something has to give.

In fact, Chai Feldblum, an open lesbian and President Obama’s appointed head of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, has famously stated several years ago that when religious liberty and sexual liberty came into conflict, she was “having a hard time coming up *with any case* in which religious liberty should win.”¹⁸ The deck is stacked against people of faith who believe what the Bible says about God’s plan for human sexuality, who believe that marriage is only between one man and one woman. Listen, LGBT activists won’t stop at recognition by the Court, their aim is domination of the culture. They will not stop until they win over our children, silence our convicting voices, and force us to celebrate sin. There is a destructive program.

Well we've talked about the divine pattern, its deceptive perversion, the definitive problem, and the destructive program, the propaganda and the agenda that is being pushed on our society, but what can we do about it? Finally, as Christ-followers, we need a determined plan of action.

V. THE DETERMINED PLAN

Admittedly, most of us have been bystanders to this point, silently watching these events transpire without any thought to Jesus' command to be stinging salt and shining light. It is time for Bible-believing citizens to wake up and get involved. What can we do, what should we do, what must we do? Here are several action steps we can determine to take:

Action Step 1: Pray: We need to *pray* for God's mercy on a nation that is speeding toward Sodom, and hurtling toward Gomorrah. Pray that God's Spirit will revive a church that is worldly. Pray that God would be pleased to send a mighty sweeping revival. Pray that the Spirit of God would sweep across the dry bones in our churches and raise them up as a mighty army! But I remind you that the promises of 2 Chronicles 7:14 depend on God's people humbling themselves, God’s people seeking His in prayer, God’s people turning from sin to biblical righteousness. But it all begins with prayer.

Remember what Abraham did when God told him that He was about to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah? Abraham interceded with God for his nephew Lot and his family. And because of his intercession, judgment was delayed and Lot was delivered. Just as Abraham interceded, we need to plead with God that He might stay His hand of judgment. See the future of America does not lie in the hands of the judges in the Court house, or the politicians in the Houses of Congress, or the president in his rainbow lit White House. Under God, the future of America lies with the people in God's House - Christians who get on their knees, pray and seek the face and favor of God. The need of the hour is not just indignation, we must begin with intercession. Step number one: Pray.

Action Step 2: Practice: We need to *practice* the biblical principles for a healthy marriage as a positive witness. We need to follow the principles laid out by Paul in Ephesians 5, and of Peter in 1 Peter 3, and other passages, and build our marriages and homes on the foundation of God's word. Don't skip this one. Getting a hearing in the culture depends on our credibility. When the divorce rate among professing Christians is essentially the same as that of the world, we have little credibility with which to call the world to repentance, even if they are trying to redefine the family. Christian marriages ought to be the model for relationships. We ought to be a winsome witness to a watching world. Step number 2: Practice the biblical principles for a healthy marriage.

Action Step 3: Participate: We need to *participate* in our "government of the people, by the people, and for the people" as Abraham Lincoln described it. Now some might say: "I don't think Christians should get involved in politics." Let me ask you a question: Who created government in the first place? Romans 13:1-7 tells us plainly and unmistakably that God ordained government. Since God created the institution of government, would He want His people to stay out of it? No. If Christians don't "render to Caesar" (Matt. 22:21) and don't function as "salt" and "light" (Matt. 5:13-16) in the arena of government, then we disobey the commands of Christ and allow Satan to prevail by default. That is why we are in the mess we are in right now. So we need to and impact our government as stinging salt and shining light.

If you believe that we should reject the redefinition of marriage, then try to persuade your family, friends, and acquaintances to take an active role in speaking out for God's plan for marriage. Walk your neighborhood, knock on doors, and hand out a copy of the Bulletin Insert. Write an editorial in your local paper about the need to protect marriage between one man and one woman or write a blog post. Whenever you see a news website talking about same-sex "marriage," weigh in on the comments section. Do a Facebook post on the importance of God's plan for marriage. You can even tweet on Twitter for marriage! It has taken us 40 years, but we are winning the debate about human life. We can win this debate about marriage, if we don't give up. Know that you will experience opposition and maybe even persecution, but remember the words of Jesus in the Beatitudes: "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad..."

Also, consider contacting your elected officials, and let them know how you feel about marriage. Urge them to support the *First Amendment Defense Act* introduced by Senator Mike Lee (R-UT) and Rep. Raul Labrador (R-ID). Call the capital switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask for your legislators. Or visit FRC.org and click on Contact Officials. Sometimes our silence is interpreted as consent. Let your elected representatives know that you expect them to represent you when it

comes to your freedom to believe the way you want to believe and live out those beliefs without penalties or fines, the loss of a job or the threat of jail.

We also need to register to vote and vote our Biblical values. We need to make our voices heard in the primaries and elect a President who will appoint judges who will not make law out of thin air, but who will uphold the laws of nature and of nature's God and faithfully interpret the Constitution. The next President will likely have an opportunity to make multiple appointments, who might even overturn this outrageous ruling. But there is no margin for error. It starts with the right person as President. So make sure you are registered and then find a candidate that most closely endorses your beliefs, values and convictions – especially on marriage.

If the President, his party, and this Court think that they have resolved this controversial issue, they're mistaken. By disenfranchising millions of Americans, in a decision divorced of law and logic, they have only poured fuel on the fire. Forty years ago, many people thought -- as some might today -- that the battle for life was lost. Over time, our movement and technology helped to change people's hearts and minds to a new understanding of the sanctity of the unborn child. And we will do it again. As more Americans see and feel the erosion of religious liberty, of parental rights, of children's innocence, and of conscience rights, their opinions will no longer be swayed by emotions and popular opinion -- but by transcendent truth and inevitable consequences that come from its rejection. So don't give up, stand up and speak up. Hold firm to the faith and continue speaking into the culture the uncompromising word of God. So Step 1 – Pray for God to intervene. Step 2 – Practice biblical principles for a healthy marriage. Step 3 – Participate as salt and light in the public arena.

Action Step 4: Proclaim: We need to proclaim the promise found in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11: “Do you not know that the unjust will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be deceived: no sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, homosexuals, thieves, greedy people, drunkards, revilers, or swindlers will inherit God's kingdom. Some of you were like this...” Notice that it is past tense, and what comes next speaks of God's amazing grace: “But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.” That is Good News!

Hear me – outside of prayer, the most important thing we can do as believers is to proclaim the Good News. It is ironic that those who are in the LGBT lifestyle struggle with all their might to achieve freedom from the so-called shackles of biblical morality and traditional institutions, and yet Jesus tells us that those who commit sin are “slaves to sin” (John 8:34). In trying to find freedom, they sadly find themselves as slaves. See the Scripture teaches that genuine fulfillment and true freedom can only be experienced when we live in harmony with God's person, plan and pattern. And Jesus also says: "If you hold to my teaching (that's God's pattern), you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32). And He adds: “If the Son sets you free, you are free indeed” (John 8:36).

Listen, only Jesus can break the strongholds of sin and offer freedom and forgiveness and hope. For when we turn from our sins and turn to Christ, He will change our desires, He will change our passions, and He will change everything about us. Second Corinthians 5:17 says: “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things

have come.” And that is the promise of God we need to share with everybody, everywhere, regardless of their sin. You can be a new person in Christ Jesus!

So let us live and preach that message of the transforming power of the love of God in Christ Jesus! Let’s stand alongside these broken and lost people trapped in Satan’s snare! Let’s love them out of that sinful and destructive lifestyle! Let’s lead them to Jesus who can set them free! For whom the Son sets free is free indeed!

But let’s also exercise our rights as Christian citizens! Listen, we can make the difference if we don’t give into despair. Yes, the days of socially acceptable, comfortable Christianity are over. Yes, times of testing and persecution are coming -- just as they have come to every generation of God’s faithful. The costs of following Jesus are real. But don’t give up. Don’t quit. There is no retreat and no surrender in the Lord’s army. Jesus said the gates of hell itself cannot prevail against His church. Listen, His kingdom will come. His will, will be done. On this earth, even as it is in heaven. Maybe not today or tomorrow. But eventually and ultimately. He will rule and reign. Until then, put on the full armor of God and fight on. Fight for your marriage. Fight for your children and grandchildren. Fight for your freedom to believe the Bible and live it out on the job. Fight for what this nation was founded upon and made it the object of God’s favor and blessing. Let’s take our stand in this evil day for God’s plan for marriage. And all of God’s people said: Amen!

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A pastor for 20 years and a pioneer leader in the values voter movement, Dr. Kenyn Cureton, former Vice President for Convention Relations for the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, currently serves as Vice President for Church Ministries with the Family Research Council in Washington, DC.

¹ <http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2015/06/26/huckabee-on-same-sex-marriage-ruling-we-must-resist-and-reject-judicial-tyranny-not-retreat/>

² See <http://www.marri.us> for these and other statistics on the benefits of the intact married family that worships weekly.

³ James Dobson, *Marriage Under Fire: Why We Must Win This Battle*, (Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, 2004), 54 and endnote 49 on page 120.

⁴ The media often cites the highly touted and yet fatally flawed and biased studies of Simon LeVay, *The Sexual Brain* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1993) and Dean Hamer, *The Science of Desire* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1994), which were proven to be bogus by independent studies done by researchers at Yale, MIT, Columbia, Washington University School of Medicine, et al.

⁵ See the admission of this tactic by homosexual activists Marshall Kirk and Hunter Madsen, *After the Ball: How America Will Conquer its Fear and Hatred of Gays in the 90s* (New York: Plume/Doubleday, 1989/90), 161 et passim.

⁶ James Dobson, *Complete Marriage and Family Home Reference Guide*, (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2000), 402. See also <http://www.troubledwith.com/LoveandSex/A000001001.cfm?topic=love%20and%20sex%3A%20homosexuality>.

⁷ According to a May 2008 Hunter College report, funded by the pro-homosexual Human Rights Campaign, only 2.9% of those polled identified themselves as gay, lesbian or bi-sexual. See the full report at the following web address:

http://www.hrc.org/documents/Hunter_College_Report.pdf.

⁸ <http://www.bpnews.net/44312/i-would-hug-him-says-florist-of-gay-accuser>

⁹ <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2014/06/03/baker-forced-to-make-gay-wedding-cakes-undergo-sensitivity-training-after/>

¹⁰ <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3033049/Full-house-Indiana-pizza-parlor-reopens-owners-840-000-donations-saying-won-t-cater-gay-weddings.html>

¹¹ Michael Chiusano and Isabel Lyman, “Parents’ Rights: Educators have been waging a covert war on parents - who are starting to fight back.” *National Review*, September 30, 1996.

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ Michael Foust, “Massachusetts 2nd-grade teacher reads class ‘gay marriage’ book; administrator backs her,” *Baptist Press* April 20, 2006. See the article online at <http://www.bpnews.net/bpnews.asp?ID=23077>.

¹⁵ <http://www.davidparkerfund.org/html/background.html>

¹⁶ Patricia Nell Warren, “Future Shock”, *The Advocate*, October 3, 1995, 80, as quoted by Paul E. Rondeau, “Selling Homosexuality to America”, *Regent University Law Review*, Vol. 14, No. 2, Spring 2002, at p. 470.

¹⁷ <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/05/opinion/sunday/frank-bruni-same-sex-sinners.html>

¹⁸ <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/012/191kgwgh.asp?page=4>